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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

This is in response to the Applicant's arguments and amendments filed on 27 March 2009 in which claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 15-20, 24-28, 30-32 are currently pending.

### ***Claim Rejection***

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 24-25 use the claim limitations "computer-readable medium" and "computer-readable instructions". However, support for these claim limitations are not disclosed in the original specification. Instead, the terminology "computer program product executable" and "computer program 114" was disclosed in the specification in page 6 lines 29-30, page 7 lines 7-8 and page 20 lines 5-6 respectively.

Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 15-20, 24-28, 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui (PG Pub US 2002/0141740 A1) in view of Park (PG Pub US 2003/0195979 A1).

Regarding claims **1 and 24**, Matsui discloses a computer-readable medium ("the data transmission apparatus (server) can be constituted in an independent computer system by recording a program for performing the data transmission process" [0327] lines 5-9) and a method for streaming media from a streaming server (server, fig. 7) to a streaming client (client terminal, fig. 7) via a transmission channel (network, fig. 7), wherein the method comprises:

receiving a first request for media from a streaming client at a streaming server ("when the user performs an operation for specifying the video data to be obtained on a video data selection screen, an operation signal Sop1 according to this operation is inputted to the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211, whereby a signal Sd1 for requesting SMIL data relating to the specified video data (SMIL request message Mdr) is transmitted from the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211 to the server 100a" [0168] lines 3-10);

sending a response to the received first request from the streaming server to the streaming client, the response including a plurality of error resilience levels supportable by the streaming server in sending the media to the streaming client ("the HTTP transmission/reception unit 101 reads an SMIL file Da corresponding to the SMIL data request signal Sd1 from the data storage unit 120, and transmits is as SMIL data Dsm by HTTP. The SMIL data Dsm is transmitted through the network 11 to the receiving

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terminal 200b to be received by the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211” [0169] lines 3-9 and “video data to be initially received is selected from among plural video data files shown in an SMIL file on the basis of the anti-error intensity” [0158] lines 2-4 and fig. 5(a));

the plurality of error resilience levels includes a first error resilience level indicating a default error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of video element 711, 712, 713, 714, fig. 5(a)) and a second error resilience level indicating an alternative error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of video element 711, 712, 713, 714, fig. 5(a), where if for example, video element 711 is the default error resilience level, then the alternative error resilience level can be any of video element 712, 713, 714);

receiving a second request from the streaming client at the streaming server, the second request including an error resilience level selected from the plurality of error resilience levels (“a video data file most suitable to the contents of the user setting is selected from among the four video data files, and a designation signal Sc designating the selected video data file is outputted to the RTSP message transmission/reception unit 2142. In the RTSP message transmission/reception unit 214, the designation signal Sc is transmitted to the server 100a as an RTSP message signal Mrtsp” [0170] lines 3-9); and

sending the media from the streaming server to the streaming client based on the error resilience level (“the transmission unit 103 selects a predetermined video file is

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selected from among the plural video files stored in the data storage unit 120, on the basis of the designation signal Sc, and transmits it as RTP data Drtp" [0171] lines 5-8).

However, Matsui does not explicitly disclose a default error resilience level of the streaming server.

Nevertheless, Park discloses "the server 10 provides or informs of at least two types of coding formats and the terminal 20 recognizes that the corresponding contents can be coded in at least two coding formats. At operation S105, the server 10 packetizes and transmits the bit streams in a general coding format to the terminal 20" (Park [0042-0043]) and "the server 40 packetizes and transmits the bit streams in the general coding format to the terminal 50" (Park [0053]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a default error resilience level of the streaming server because "the packetizing unit 13 packetizes the bit streams in a predetermined coding format" (Park [0039]).

Regarding claim **3**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Matsui discloses said plurality of error resilience levels are defined in accordance with a targeted highest data loss rate or a packet loss rate ("the rate of packet loss is calculated as the incidence of error on the basis of sequence number information included in the headers of the RTP packets (RTP data)" [0162] lines 1-4).

Regarding claim **5**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Matsui discloses receiving from the streaming client at the

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streaming server, a request for a different error resilience level (“the data analysis unit 212b outputs the data designation signal Sc which instructs the server 100a to switch the video stream supplied from the server 100a to a video stream having a higher anti-transmission-error property or a higher video quality, according to a variation in the packet loss rate” [0230] lines 9-14); and

adapting, by the streaming server, the error resilience level of the media sent in accordance with the request (“when the incidence of transmission error is high, the receiving terminal 200b can receive a video stream having a short I-frame interval and a high anti-error intensity from among the video streams stored at the server end” [0230] lines 14-18).

Regarding claim **6**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 5). In addition, Matsui discloses said request is one of the following: a request for a specific error resilience level, an error resilience level increase request, or an error resilience level decrease request (“the data analysis unit 212b outputs the data designation signal Sc which instructs the server 100a to switch the video stream supplied from the server 100a to a video stream having a higher anti-transmission-error property or a higher video quality, according to a variation in the packet loss rate” [0230] lines 9-14).

Regarding claim **7**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). However, Matsui fails to specifically disclose the streaming server receives from the streaming client a RTCP (RTP Control Protocol (Real-Time Streaming Protocol)) report, indicative of transmission channel errors, and wherein the streaming

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server decides on a different error resilience level based on the RTCP report, as claimed.

Nevertheless, Matsui teaches “the client terminal 200c is provided with an RTCP report transmission/reception unit 219 which transmits information Drr indicating the transmission status as a receiver report to the server 100c” (Matsui [0254] lines 7-10) and “information relating to the incidence of transmission error, the RTP packet arrival time, and the like is transmitted as a receiver report Drr from the RTCP report transmission/reception unit 219 to the server 100c” (Matsui [0260] lines 1-4) and “the server 100c switches the video stream being transmitted as RTP data to the receiving terminal 200a, to another video stream having a different coding condition, on the basis of the receiver report supplied from the receiving terminal 200c” (Matsui [0258] lines 4-7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to receive at the streaming server from the streaming client a RTCP report indicative of transmission channel errors and wherein the streaming server decides on a different error resilience level based on the RTCP report because “the RTCP report transmission/reception units 104 and 219 transmit the sender report and the receiver report by RTCP (Real Time Control Protocol)” (Matsui [0256] lines 1-3).

Regarding claim 9, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Matsui discloses the media (the following elements either alone or in combination of Dv1, Dv2, Dv3, Dv4, fig. 1(a)) at the streaming server (server



100a) is associated with an error resilience value indicating a media content error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of I-VOP Intvl.10s, I-VOP Intvl.5s, I-VOP Intvl.2s, I-VOP Intvl.1s, fig. 1(a)).

Regarding claim **10**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 9). In addition, Matsui discloses said error resilience value is stored in a file format in which said media is stored (the following elements either alone or in combination of Dv1, Dv2, Dv3, Dv4, fig. 1).

Regarding claim **11**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 5). In addition, Matsui discloses error resilience adaptation is performed by switching the streaming server from sending a first generated stream having the error resilience level to sending a second generated stream having the different error resilience level, the different error resilience level differing from the error resilience level ("when the anti-error intensity is set at [low level] in the receiving terminal, the video stream corresponding to the video element 721 is selected as a video to be received. If the incidence of transmission error increases after reception of the video stream (s1.mp4), the video stream being received is switched to the video stream (s2.mp4) or the video stream (s3.mp4) which are given the system-protocol attribute value "fret" or "ret+fec", respectively" [0235] lines 1-12).

Regarding claim **15**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). However, Matsui fails to specifically disclose sending the media uses a transmission channel at least partially implemented via a mobile communications network, as claimed.

Nevertheless, Matsui teaches “a handy phone 300 includes a signal processing unit 302 for performing various kinds of signal processing; and a radio communication unit 303 for outputting a radio signal N received by an antenna 301 to the signal processing unit 302 as a reception signal, and a transmitting a transmission signal generated by the signal processing unit 302 from the antenna 301 as a radio signal N” [0322] lines 1-7 and fig. 16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to send media using a transmission channel at least partially implemented via a mobile communications network because “the international standards organization 3GPP which defines the standard of receiving terminals in radio networks, provides that RTP/UDP/IP is employed as a protocol for transmitting video data between a server and a receiving terminal, and RTSP/TCP/IP is employed as a protocol for requesting data from a receiving terminal to a server” (Matsui [0005] lines 1-10).

Regarding claim **16**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 15). However, Matsui fails to specifically disclose that the streaming server has an IP connection (Internet Protocol) to an IP-based network which is configured to be coupled with the mobile communications network, as claimed.

Nevertheless, Matsui teaches “fig. 18 shows a conventional data transmission system 20 for distributing video data using the Internet” (Matsui [0006]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to connect an IP-based network with the mobile

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communications network because “the international standards organization 3GPP which defines the standard of receiving terminals in radio networks, provides that RTP/UDP/IP is employed as a protocol for transmitting video data between a server and a receiving terminal, and RTSP/TCP/IP is employed as a protocol for requesting data from a receiving terminal to a server” (Matsui [0005] lines 1-10).

Regarding claim **17**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Matsui discloses said media comprises at least one of the following: a video content, an audio content, a still image, graphics, text and speech (“the client terminal 200b determines a video stream having an optimum anti-error intensity on the basis of an anti-error intensity of video data to be received” [0157] lines 5-8).

Regarding claim **18**, Matsui discloses a client device (client terminal, fig. 7) comprising:

receiving means for receiving streaming media sent from a streaming server to the client device via a transmission channel (“the transmission unit 103 selects a predetermined video file is selected from among the plural video files stored in the data storage unit 120, on the basis of the designation signal Sc, and transmits it as RTP data Drtp” [0171] lines 5-8) and for receiving a plurality of error resilience levels supportable by the streaming server in streaming the media to the client device (“the HTTP transmission/reception unit 101 reads an SMIL file Da corresponding to the SMIL data request signal Sd1 from the data storage unit 120, and transmits is as SMIL data Dsm by HTTP. The SMIL data Dsm is transmitted through the network 11 to the receiving

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terminal 200b to be received by the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211” [0169] lines 3-9 and “video data to be initially received is selected from among plural video data files shown in an SMIL file on the basis of the anti-error intensity” [0158] lines 2-4 and fig. 5(a));

the plurality of error resilience levels includes a first error resilience level indicating a default error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of video element 711, 712, 713, 714, fig. 5(a)) and a second error resilience level indicating an alternative error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of video element 711, 712, 713, 714, fig. 5(a), where if for example, video element 711 is the default error resilience level, then the alternative error resilience level can be any of video element 712, 713, 714);

detection means for detecting transmission channel errors (“an incidence-of-error calculation unit 216b1 performs process P1 in which the incidence of error is calculated” [0220] lines 1-3); and

sending means for sending an error resilience selection from the received plurality of error resilience levels to the streaming server (“a video data file most suitable to the contents of the user setting is selected from among the four video data files, and a designation signal Sc designating the selected video data file is outputted to the RTSP message transmission/reception unit 2142. In the RTSP message transmission/reception unit 214, the designation signal Sc is transmitted to the server 100a as an RTSP message signal Mrtsp” [0170] lines 3-9).

However, Matsui does not explicitly disclose a default error resilience level of the streaming server.

Nevertheless, Park discloses "the server 10 provides or informs of at least two types of coding formats and the terminal 20 recognizes that the corresponding contents can be coded in at least two coding formats. At operation S105, the server 10 packetizes and transmits the bit streams in a general coding format to the terminal 20" (Park [0042-0043]) and "the server 40 packetizes and transmits the bit streams in the general coding format to the terminal 50" (Park [0053]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a default error resilience level of the streaming server because "the packetizing unit 13 packetizes the bit streams in a predetermined coding format" (Park [0039]).

Regarding claim **19**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 18). However, Matsui fails to specifically disclose the client device is a mobile station of a cellular network, as claimed.

Nevertheless, Matsui teaches "a handy phone 300 includes a signal processing unit 302 for performing various kinds of signal processing; and a radio communication unit 303 for outputting a radio signal N received by an antenna 301 to the signal processing unit 302 as a reception signal, and a transmitting a transmission signal generated by the signal processing unit 302 from the antenna 301 as a radio signal N" [0322] lines 1-7 and fig. 16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to send media using a transmission channel at least partially implemented via a mobile communications network because “the international standards organization 3GPP which defines the standard of receiving terminals in radio networks, provides that RTP/UDP/IP is employed as a protocol for transmitting video data between a server and a receiving terminal, and RTSP/TCP/IP is employed as a protocol for requesting data from a receiving terminal to a server” (Matsui [0005] lines 1-10).

Regarding claim **20**, Matsui discloses a streaming server (server, fig. 7) comprising:

receiving means for receiving a first request for media from a streaming client (“when the user performs an operation for specifying the video data to be obtained on a video data selection screen, an operation signal Sop1 according to this operation is inputted to the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211, whereby a signal Sd1 for requesting SMIL data relating to the specified video data (SMIL request message Mdr) is transmitted from the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211 to the server 100a” [0168] lines 3-10) and for receiving a second request from the streaming client, the second request including an error resilience level selected from a plurality of error resilience levels (“a video data file most suitable to the contents of the user setting is selected from among the four video data files, and a designation signal Sc designating the selected video data file is outputted to the RTSP message transmission/reception unit

2142. In the RTSP message transmission/reception unit 214, the designation signal Sc is transmitted to the server 100a as an RTSP message signal Mrtsp" [0170] lines 3-9);

the plurality of error resilience levels includes a first error resilience level indicating a default error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of video element 711, 712, 713, 714, fig. 5(a)) and a second error resilience level indicating an alternative error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of video element 711, 712, 713, 714, fig. 5(a), where if for example, video element 711 is the default error resilience level, then the alternative error resilience level can be any of video element 712, 713, 714);

sending means for sending a response to the first request to the streaming client, the response including the plurality of error resilience levels supportable by the streaming server in sending the media to the streaming client ("the HTTP transmission/reception unit 101 reads an SMIL file Da corresponding to the SMIL data request signal Sd1 from the data storage unit 120, and transmits is as SMIL data Dsm by HTTP. The SMIL data Dsm is transmitted through the network 11 to the receiving terminal 200b to be received by the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211" [0169] lines 3-9 and "video data to be initially received is selected from among plural video data files shown in an SMIL file on the basis of the anti-error intensity" [0158] lines 2-4 and fig. 5(a)) and for sending streaming media to the streaming client via a transmission channel based on the error resilience level ("the transmission unit 103 selects a predetermined video file is selected from among the plural video files stored in the data

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storage unit 120, on the basis of the designation signal Sc, and transmits it as RTP data Drtp" [0171] lines 5-8).

However, Matsui does not explicitly disclose a default error resilience level of the streaming server.

Nevertheless, Park discloses "the server 10 provides or informs of at least two types of coding formats and the terminal 20 recognizes that the corresponding contents can be coded in at least two coding formats. At operation S105, the server 10 packetizes and transmits the bit streams in a general coding format to the terminal 20" (Park [0042-0043]) and "the server 40 packetizes and transmits the bit streams in the general coding format to the terminal 50" (Park [0053]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a default error resilience level of the streaming server because "the packetizing unit 13 packetizes the bit streams in a predetermined coding format" (Park [0039]).

Regarding claims **25 and 26**, Matsui discloses a computer-readable medium ("the data reproduction apparatus (receiving terminal) can be constituted in an independent computer system by recording a program for performing the data reproduction process" [0327] lines 5-9) and a method for receiving streamed media from a streaming server via a transmission channel, the method comprising:

sending a first request for media from a streaming client to a streaming server ("when the user performs an operation for specifying the video data to be obtained on a video data selection screen, an operation signal Sop1 according to this operation is



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inputted to the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211, whereby a signal Sd1 for requesting SMIL data relating to the specified video data (SMIL request message Mdr) is transmitted from the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211 to the server 100a" [0168] lines 3-10);

receiving a response from the streaming server at the streaming client, the response including a plurality of error resilience levels supportable by the streaming server when sending the media ("the HTTP transmission/reception unit 101 reads an SMIL file Da corresponding to the SMIL data request signal Sd1 from the data storage unit 120, and transmits is as SMIL data Dsm by HTTP. The SMIL data Dsm is transmitted through the network 11 to the receiving terminal 200b to be received by the HTTP transmission/reception unit 211" [0169] lines 3-9 and "video data to be initially received is selected from among plural video data files shown in an SMIL file on the basis of the anti-error intensity" [0158] lines 2-4 and fig. 5(a));

the plurality of error resilience levels includes a first error resilience level indicating a default error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of video element 711, 712, 713, 714, fig. 5(a)) and a second error resilience level indicating an alternative error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of video element 711, 712, 713, 714, fig. 5(a), where if for example, video element 711 is the default error resilience level, then the alternative error resilience level can be any of video element 712, 713, 714);

sending a second request from the streaming client to the streaming server, the second request including an error resilience level selected from the plurality of error

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resilience levels (“a video data file most suitable to the contents of the user setting is selected from among the four video data files, and a designation signal Sc designating the selected video data file is outputted to the RTSP message transmission/reception unit 2142. In the RTSP message transmission/reception unit 214, the designation signal Sc is transmitted to the server 100a as an RTSP message signal Mrtsp” [0170] lines 3-9); and

receiving the media from the streaming server at the streaming client based on the error resilience level (“the transmission unit 103 selects a predetermined video file is selected from among the plural video files stored in the data storage unit 120, on the basis of the designation signal Sc, and transmits it as RTP data Drtp” [0171] lines 5-8).

However, Matsui does not explicitly disclose a default error resilience level of the streaming server.

Nevertheless, Park discloses “the server 10 provides or informs of at least two types of coding formats and the terminal 20 recognizes that the corresponding contents can be coded in at least two coding formats. At operation S105, the server 10 packetizes and transmits the bit streams in a general coding format to the terminal 20” (Park [0042-0043]) and “the server 40 packetizes and transmits the bit streams in the general coding format to the terminal 50” (Park [0053]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a default error resilience level of the streaming server because “the packetizing unit 13 packetizes the bit streams in a predetermined coding format” (Park [0039]).

Regarding claim **27**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Matsui discloses the error resilience level is an integer value (“four video data files having different anti-error intensities is employed” [0231] lines 2-3 and fig. 5(a)).

Regarding claim **28**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Matsui discloses identifying a media content error resilience level from the media wherein the plurality of error resilience levels includes the identified media content error resilience level (the following elements either alone or in combination of Dv1, Dv2, Dv3, Dv4, fig. 1).

Regarding claim **30**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Matsui discloses selecting a media stream to send the media from a plurality of media streams based on the error resilience level (“in the receiving terminal 200b, video data to be initially received is selected from among plural video data files shown in an SMIL file on the basis of the anti-error intensity” [0158] lines 1-4).

Regarding claim **31**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). In addition, Matsui discloses after sending the media from the streaming server to the streaming client, receiving a third request from the streaming client at the streaming server, the third request including a new error resilience level selected based on an error rate (“the data analysis unit 212b outputs the data designation signal Sc which instructs the server 100a to switch the video stream supplied from the server 100a to a video stream having a higher anti-transmission-error property or a higher video quality, according to a variation in the packet loss rate” [0230] lines 9-14).

Regarding claim **32**, Matsui, Park discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). However, Matsui fails to specifically disclose that receiving a third request from the streaming client at the streaming server, the third request including a request to identify a current error resilience level, as claimed.

Nevertheless, Matsui teaches “fig. 4(b) explains a mobile terminal 201b for setting the level of anti-error intensity using a slide bar” (Matsui [0138] lines 1-3) and further “in the user operation unit 213 of the mobile terminal 201b, an integral value within a range of 0-100 is calculated as an anti-error intensity level according to the position of the slide bar” (Matsui [0141] lines 1-4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to receiving a third request identifying a current error resilience level because “the calculated value is held as the anti-error intensity value of the mobile terminal 201b” (Matsui [0144] lines 5-7).

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

**Applicants have argued** regarding claims 1, 18, 20, 24-26 that “Park fails to disclose, teach, or suggest describe “wherein the plurality of error resilience levels includes a first error resilience level indicating a default error resilience level of the streaming server and a second error resilience level indicating an alternative error resilience level” (pages 10, 12).

**In response to Applicants' argument**, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Park discloses “the server 10 provides or informs of at least two types of coding formats

and the terminal 20 recognizes that the corresponding contents can be coded in at least two coding formats" ([0042]), "the server 10 packetizes and transmits the bit streams in a general coding format to the terminal 20" ([0043]), "The packetizing unit 43 packetizes the bit streams in a predetermined coding format" ([0049]). This shows that there are two different levels from the server, where one is a default level. Therefore, Park discloses the plurality of error resilience levels includes a first error resilience level indicating a default error resilience level of the streaming server.

### ***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTINE DUONG whose telephone number is (571)270-1664. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday: 830 AM-6 PM EST with first Friday off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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06/11/2009